



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) Somalia and The Gulf of Guinea: Piracy Analysis and
Warning Weekly (PAWW) Report
for 11 – 17 July 2013**

18 July 2013

Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) Product Note: This product has been expanded to include information concerning piracy and maritime crime events in the Gulf of Guinea, as well as those in the Horn of Africa region.

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1. (U) Horn of Africa Scope Note

(U) The Piracy and Maritime Crime Weekly (PMCW) Report is a review of recent piracy and maritime crime incidents and an outlook on threats around the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.

2. (U) Horn of Africa - Piracy Events Over Past Week

(U) Pirate and maritime crime activity in African waters is at low levels. There were two reported vessel attacks during this one week period. There were no vessels reported as hijacked during this one week period.

A. (U) Details

(U) **Vessels Hijacked:** No other incidents to report.

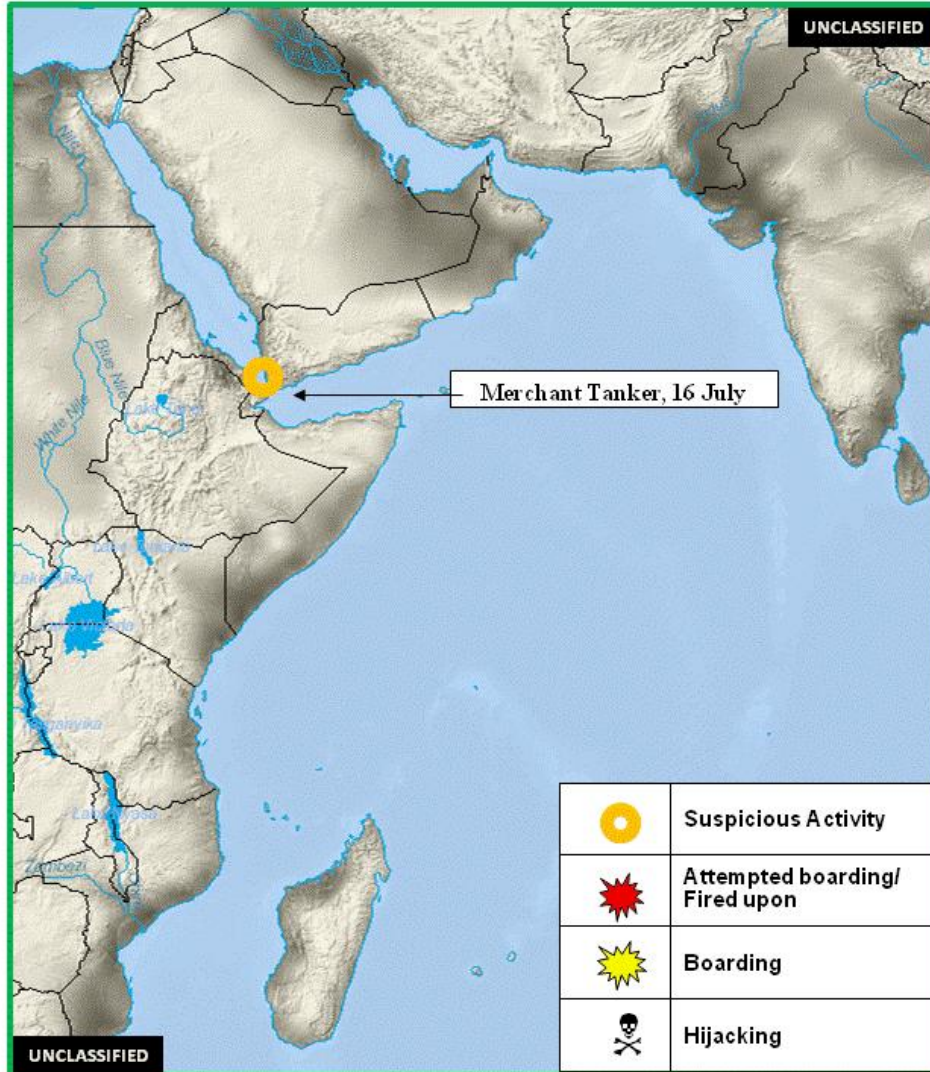
(U) **Vessels Boarded:** No other incidents to report.

(U) **Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings:** No other incidents to report.

(U) **Other Activity:**

1. (U) YEMEN: On 16 July, an underway chemical tanker experienced a suspicious approach by three skiffs at 13:28 N – 043:01 E, approximately 16 nm northwest of Mocha. The onboard security team took their position while non essential crew mustered in the citadel. The individuals in the skiff had weapons to include an RPG. The skiffs departed the area when the security team fired warning flares. (IMB)

B. (U) Incident Disposition



(U) Figure 1. HOA Maritime Crime Activity, 11 – 17 July 2013

(U) Figure 1 is a visual depiction of the incidents detailed in above summary of events.

C. (U) Tabulated Data for Horn of Africa Activity

	This Week	Last Week	June 2013	May. 2013	2013	2012	2011	2010
Vessels Hijacked	0	0	0	0	0	7	27	51
Boarding	0	0	0	0	0	1	17	16
Vessels Fired Upon/ Attempted Boarding	0	0	0	0	4	24	122	119

(U) Table 1 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years. Note: The above statistics do not include regional dhows/fishing vessels that were hijacked. Hijacked dhows are frequently used motherships by pirates and released without a ransom being paid.

3. Currently Hijacked Vessels

Name	Flag	Type	Hijacked Date
NAHAM 3	Oman	Fishing Vessel	26 March 2012

4. Weather Forecast for 17 – 24 July 2013

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 4 – 5 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

B. (U) GULF OF OMAN: Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the western section of the Gulf; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 5 feet in the eastern section of the Gulf.

C. (U) SOMALI COAST: Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 6 – 8 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 9 – 12 feet near the Horn of Africa. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 – 7 feet; with southwest winds of 20 – 25 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet near the Horn of Africa.

D. (U) ARABIAN SEA: Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southwest winds of 15 – 20 knots and seas of 8 – 10 feet.

E. (U) CENTRAL AFRICAN COAST/INDIAN OCEAN: Southeast winds 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** South-southeast winds 15 – 20 knots and seas of 5 - 6 feet.

F. (U) MOZAMBIQUE CHANNEL: Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 5 feet in the southern Channel winds. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 3 – 4 feet in the northern Channel; with southerly winds

of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 5 feet in the southern Channel winds.

G. (U) SURFACE CURENTS: The Northern Arabian Sea and GOA currents are variable with most areas having average speed of 1 knot. The Mozambique Channel currents are variable having average speed of 2 knots. Currents speeds along the Somali basin are northeasterly averaging between 1-2 knots.

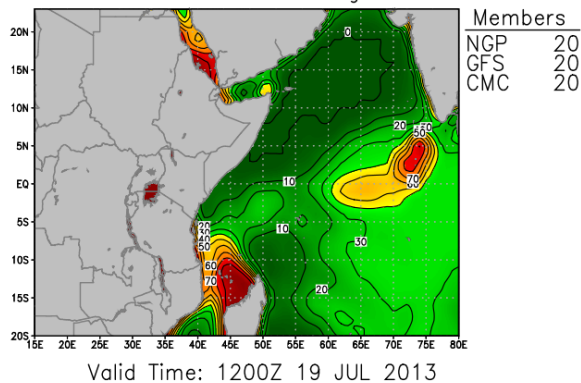
H>(U) SYNOPTIC DISCUSSION: The northern and western Indian Ocean areas are under the influence of the southwest monsoon season. The Mozambique Channel will be under the influence of low pressure system, creating a northwesterly flow. Expect clear to partly cloudy conditions throughout central African coastal areas

5. (U) Graphic Aids to 10 Day Weather Conditions and Small Boat Operations Capabilities

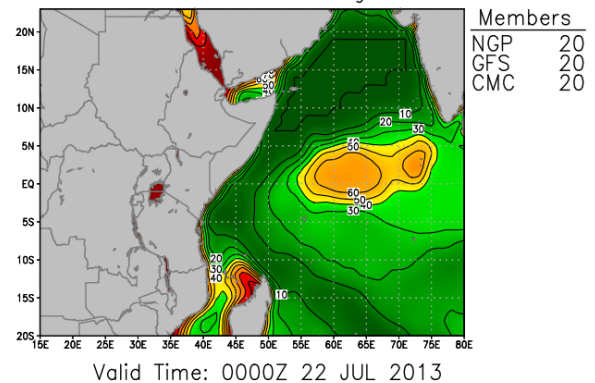
Approved for Public Release

10–Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast, DTG: 2013071700

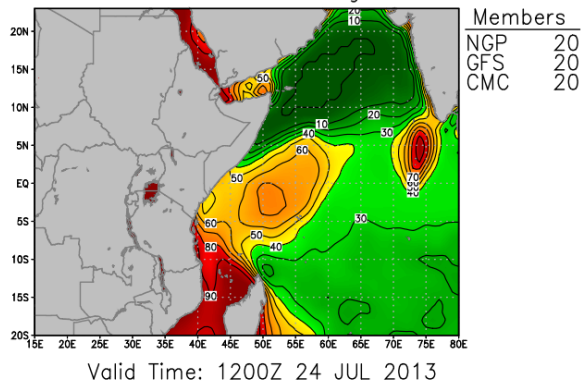
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



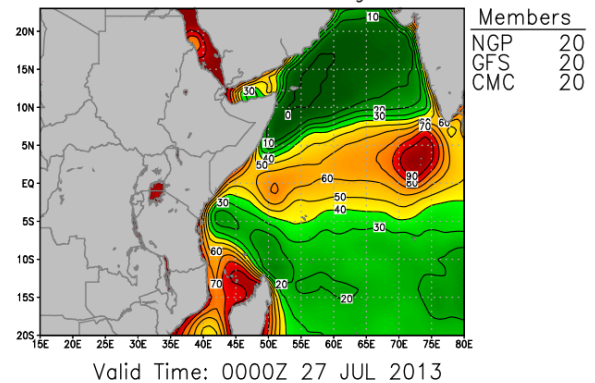
Winds < 15.0 kts and Wave Heights < 5.0 ft



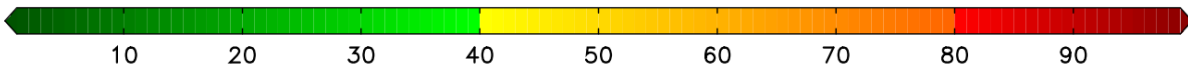
Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



Winds < 17.0 kts and Wave Heights < 7.0 ft



probability (%)



Approved for Public Release

(U) Figure 2. Ten-Day Piracy Small Boat Operations Weather Forecast (Graphic courtesy of the Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, FNMOC)

(U) In the graphic above, green shading represents a reduced likelihood of pirate activity while red represents a higher likelihood of pirate activity.

6. (U) Gulf of Guinea Scope Note

(U) The Piracy and Maritime Crime Weekly (PMCW) Report is a review of recent piracy and maritime crime incidents and an outlook on threats around the Horn of Africa and the Gulf of Guinea.

7. Gulf of Guinea - Piracy Events Over Past Week

(U) Pirate and maritime crime activity in West African waters is at low levels. There were three reported piracy/maritime crime events during this one week period. Two vessels were reported as hijacked during this one week period.

A. (U) Details

(U) Vessels Hijacked:

1. (U) On 14 July, the Malta-flagged anchored chemical tanker COTTON was hijacked approximately 13nm off Port of Gentil. A reported 12 to 15 gunmen, armed with AK-47 assault rifles, hijacked the tanker and its 24 Indian crew members onboard. (OCL, Fleetmon.com, Vesseltracker.com, news.odin.tc)
2. (U) TOGO/BENIN: On 16 July, the Marshall Islands-flagged underway product tanker OCEAN CENTURION was hijacked at 05:29 N – 001:38 E, approximately 46nm southeast of Lome. Armed pirates in two speed boats approached, boarded, and hijacked the product tanker. They took hostage all crew members, stole their personal belongings, ordered the Master to sail south, and then north towards the Togo/Benin border. The pirates then disembarked and escaped via a speedboat, 12nm from the coastline. The Togo Navy was informed about the hijacking and a patrol boat was dispatched, which escorted the tanker to Lome anchorage for investigation. Two crew members were injured during the incident and were transferred to a clinic for medical attention. (IMB, Fleetmon.com, Vesseltracker.com, news.odin.tc)

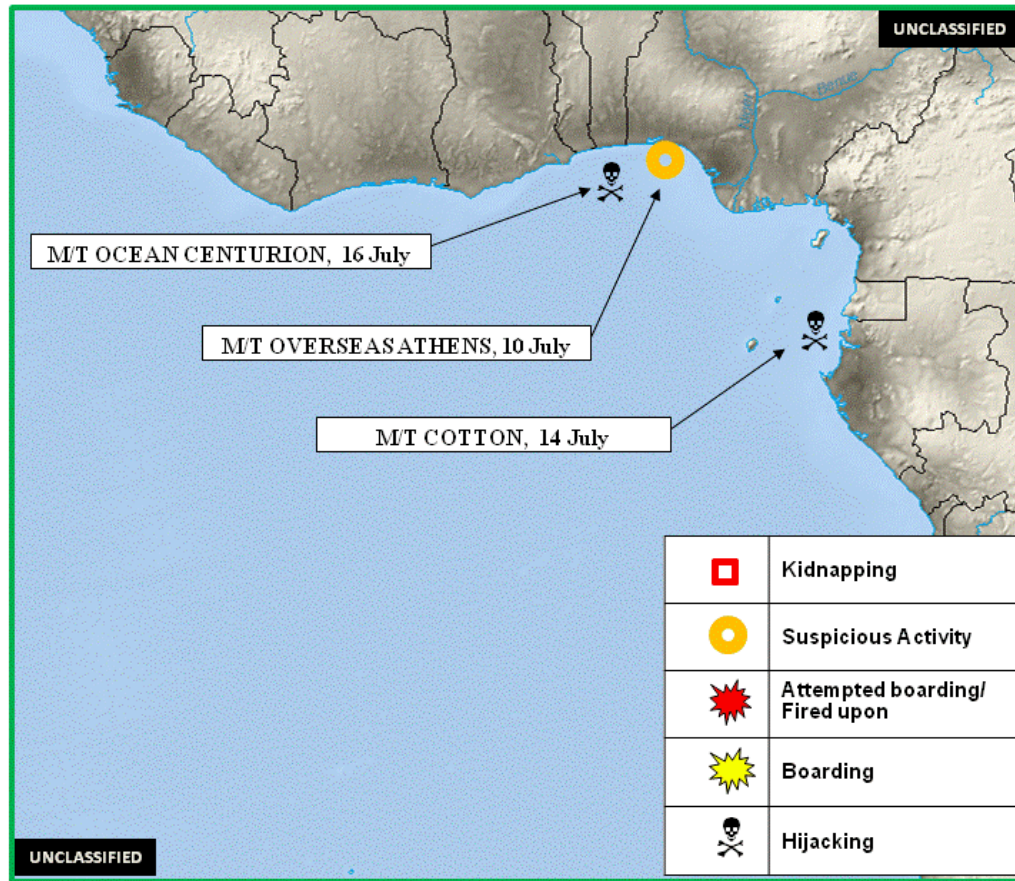
(U) **Vessels Boarded:** No other incidents to report.

(U) **Vessels Fired Upon/Attempted Boardings:** No other incidents to report.

(U) Other Activity:

1. (U) NIGERIA: On 10 July, the underway Marshall Islands-flagged tanker OVERSEAS ATHENS experienced a suspicious approach at 06:17 N – 003:21 E, approximately 5.4 nm southwest of the Fairway Buoy of Lagos Anchorage. Armed security personal on board the anchored chemical tanker noticed a small boat with an unknown number of persons approaching the ship. As the boat continued its approach to within 50 meters of the vessel, the embarked security team fired one warning shot, resulting in the boat moving away. (IMB)

B. (U) Incident Disposition



(U) Figure 3. GoG Maritime Crime Activity, 11 – 17 July 2013

(U) Figure 2 is a visual depiction of the incidents detailed in above summary of events.

C. (U) Tabulated Data for Gulf of Guinea Activity

	This Week	Last Week	July 2013	June 2013	2013	2012	2011	2010
Vessels Hijacked	2	0	1	0	7	14	19	1
Boarding	0	1	1	1	10	31	41	26
Vessels Fired Upon/ Attempted Boarding	0	0	1	3	27	30	26	12
Kidnapping	0	1	1	1	15	14	18	17

(U) Table 3 is a summary of piracy events that have occurred this week, this month, and current/prior years.

8. Currently Hijacked Vessels

Name	Flag	Type	Hijacked Date
COTTON	Malta	Tanker	15 July

9. (U) Weather Forecast for 17 – 24 July 2013

A. GULF OF GUINEA: Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet. **EXTENDED FORECAST:** Southerly winds of 10 – 15 knots and seas of 4 – 6 feet.

(U) Appendix

(U) Terminology and References

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting, and it also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity, are independent of target vessel status, and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities.

(U) Terms of Reference

(U) The following terms have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- (U) **Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- (U) **Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- (U) **Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- (U) **Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- (U) **Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained activity in close proximity by an unknown vessel.
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(U) Piracy levels

- **(U) High:** More than 7 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- **(U) Moderate:** 3–6 piracy incidents in this one-week period
- **(U) Low:** 1–2 piracy incidents in this one-week period

(U) Sourcing

(U) Information contained in this report is derived through direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources:

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark
- BBC News
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- Informa Group (INFO), formerly LLP, Llp Limited, London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Latitude38.com (LAT) website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local Media (LM)
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), U.S.
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA)
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), U.S.
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Brussels
- Naval Oceanographic Office Warfighting Support Center
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC)
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)

- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)
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(U) **ICOD:** 17 July 2013

(U) **Contributors:** Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted each week on the ONI Intel Portal and can be found at:
http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm